

R. PREMADASA, M.P.

Prime Minister

*Subject a matter
of*



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T/46 B/84

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
OF
SRI LANKA

20th August, 1984

My dear Prime Minister,

I am extremely happy that you have accepted our invitation to visit Sri Lanka from Tuesday, the 25th of September to Thursday, the 27th of September 1984. We, in Sri Lanka, feel honoured that you are visiting us, even though your stay is going to be rather brief.

As for me personally, your visit will provide an opportunity of renewing our friendship which is now nearly 10 years old. You might recall that in 1975 when you were the Leader of the Opposition, on your invitation I participated in a Conservative Party Rally in Croydon when I visited Britain in my capacity as the Chief Opposition Whip in Sri Lanka. I am sending herewith a copy of a photograph that was taken by the Central Office of Information on that occasion. I remember your forthright speech on that day in which you spelt out the policies and programmes for the future. At that time, I was the Chairman of the Policy and Programme Committee of our Party - the United National Party, which was also preparing for the General Elections of 1977. As I mentioned to you, on that occasion, we were more or less chartering the same course. Since then, both Britain and Sri Lanka have effectively implemented the policies and programmes that were placed before our people.

I am glad that we were able to continue a meaningful dialogue between us, as well as between our two countries since you assumed the onerous and prestigious office of Prime Minister of Great Britain. I recall with high esteem, your positive approach to my request for the British Government Grant of £.100 Million towards the Victoria Project in Sri Lanka. We, in Sri Lanka, consider this a magnanimous gesture on your part, as the economic climate in your country at that period of time, was not at all conducive to the granting of aid.

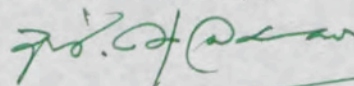
You might recall that I met you in London on my way to Lusaka and made a personal request to you for British assistance for the Victoria Project and you gave me a positive reply a couple of days later in Lusaka. We are in fact overjoyed that you are in a position to personally inaugurate the massive Victoria Reservoir Project on Wednesday, the 26th of September 1984. I am sure you will derive tremendous personal satisfaction by not only seeing the fruits of your generous decision, but also by observing that the British taxpayers monies have been well spent. I am sending herewith a photocopy of the note which you gave me in Lusaka, confirming the availability of British aid for the Victoria Project. The original of this note is with me and I value it a great deal.

During your visit to Sri Lanka, you will no doubt be able to see the results of our common endeavours for the improvement of the quality of life of the Sri Lankan people. Apart from Mahaweli, we have embarked on a number of other projects for the development of infrastructure, urban renewal and housing development by the Ministries under my charge. During the early years of the implementation of the 100,000 Houses Programme which was successfully concluded in 1983, the Overseas Development Ministry of Great Britain provided the National Housing Development Authority of Sri Lanka with the services of several experts. The assistance and encouragement we received from them, have proved to be of immense value in formulating a new strategy for the Million Houses Programme.

I am sending herewith for your perusal, a copy of the report of the ODM experts on our housing strategy, together with some literature on our Housing, Urban Development and Model Village Programmes.

With warm personal regards to Mr Denis Thatcher and yourself from Mrs Premadasa and myself, and looking forward to your visit to Sri Lanka,

Yours sincerely,



The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, FRS. M.P.
Prime Minister of Great Britain
10, Downing Street
LONDON, U.K.

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Prin Minister in the Premises

SRI LANKA

I am glad to be able to tell you that we are now in a position to offer a UK contribution to the Victoria Dam Scheme. This would be in the form of a grant of up to £100 million over six years towards the costs of the design and construction of the Dam and power station. It would, of course, be subject to normal UK grant conditions.

Jagannath Thakura

Kessuka 6th May 1979



PRIME MINISTER
of
The Democratic Socialist Republic of
SRI LANKA



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VISITOR FROM COLOMBO - SRI LANKA

Mr R PREMADASA

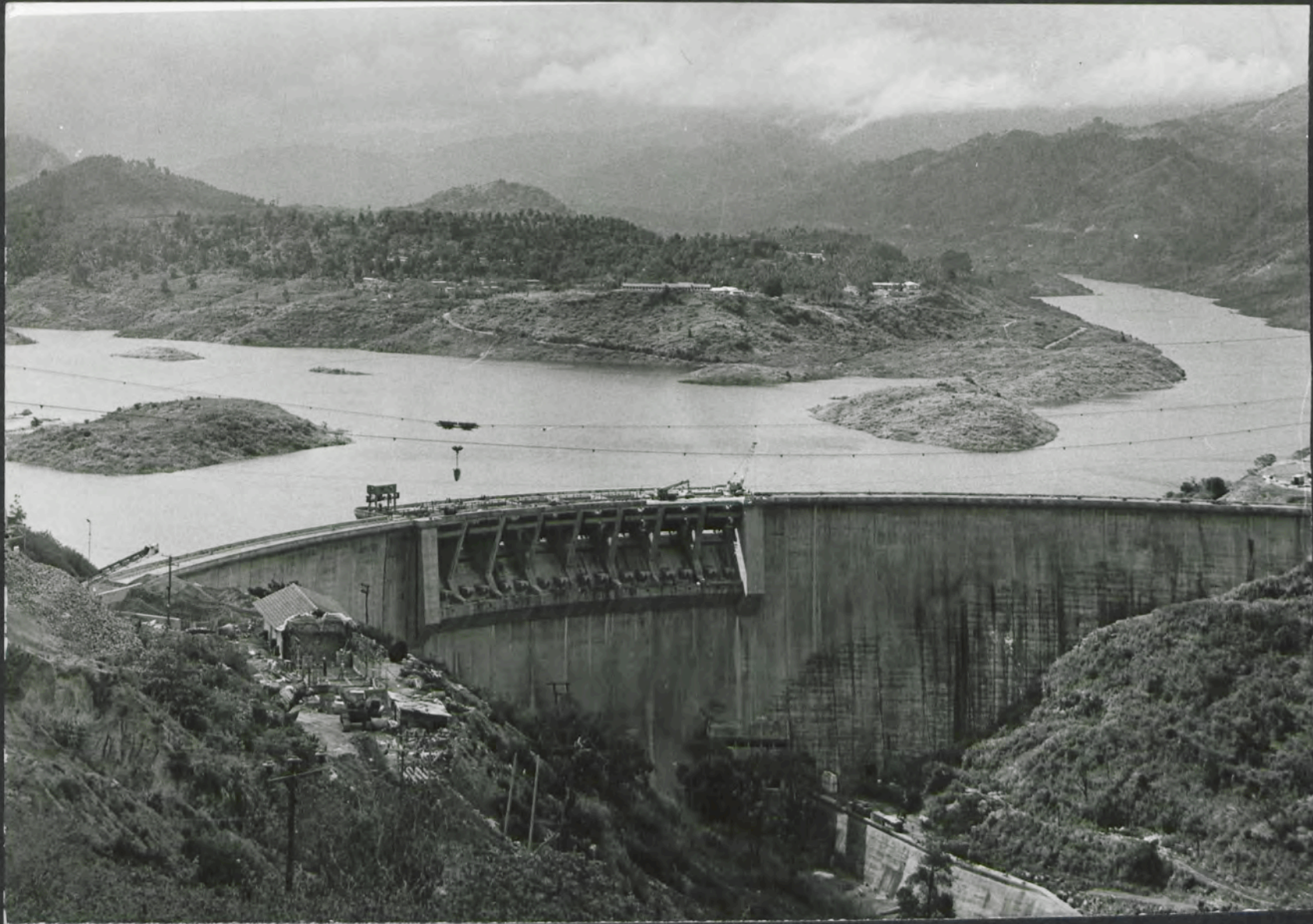
Opposition Chief Whip, United National Party.

The above visitor is in Britain for ten days as the guest of the Foreign and
Commonwealth Office, and is following a programme of arrangements made by the
Central Office of Information.

The picture shows Mr R Premadasa, (left) presenting a silver tray to the Rt Hon
Margaret Thatcher, MP, Leader of the Opposition, when he attended a Conservative
Party Rally, at Fairfield Hall, Croydon.

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Victoria Reservoir

Constructed with British Assistance
under the Mahaweli Ganga Development
Programme of Sri Lanka.

August 1984

(4)



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister ^{Per. R.}

You might like
to see the enclosed
letter from the Prime
Minister of Sri Lanka
and the photograph (a
very good one).

A reply is in
preparation.

Mr CDP
25/8



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 August, 1984

Letter from the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

BF1

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, written before the decision to postpone the Prime Minister's visit there. I should be grateful for a draft reply.

C. D. POWELL

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office